

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TRIPOLI 00577 031301Z
ACTION EB-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-06 INR-05 CIAE-00
NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 L-01 OES-02 PRS-01 DLOS-02
/051 W
-----031306Z 108963 /50

R 031236Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4330
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
SECDEF
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
EUCOM
USDOCOSOUTH

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0577

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, LY, IT, TS
SUBJ: CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE: DRILLING BY US FIRM

1. REACTION IN TRIPOLI US OIL COMMUNITY TO RUMORS THAT
READING AND BATES CO. HAS SIGNED CONTRACT WITH NOC TO
REPLACE SCARABEO IV IS ALMOST UNANIMOUS SURPRISE THAT
LARGE REPUTABLE US FIRM WOULD TAKE ON SUCH A HAZARDOUS
VENTURE. US OILMEN SPECULATE THAT THE POTENTIAL FINANCIAL
REWARD FOR COMPANY MUST BE VERY HIGH INDEED. THEY SAY
READING AND BATES CO. PLAN STATION PERSONNEL IN
MALTA, AND THAT SOME COMPANY EMPLOYEES HAVE ALREADY
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ARRIVED IN VALLETTA.

2. US EXPLORATION MANAGER IN LIBYAN NOC COMPANY
(UMM AL JAWABI) TELLS US THAT AGIP-LIBYA MANAGER, IN
RELATING NEWS OF READING AND BATES CONTRACT, WAS
DELIGHTED THAT AGIP WOULD NOW BE ABLE TO EXTRICATE
ITSELF FROM LINE OF FIRE (AND THREAT OF LIBYAN

RETALIATION AGAINST COMPANY INTERESTS).

3. IF READING AND BATES DRILL RIG ACTUALLY ARRIVES ON SCENE, WE CAN EXPECT LIBYANS TO PRESS FOR PERFORMANCE OF CONTRACT -- PROBABLY WITH BOTH THREATS AND PROMISES OF HIGH FINANCIAL RETURN. IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT LIBYANS WOULD THREATEN TO NATIONALIZE REMAINING US COMPANY INTERESTS IN LIBYAN OIL PRODUCTION OVER THIS ISSUE -- THEY WOULD LIKE TO DO SO ONE DAY, BUT FOR NOW THE CURRENT RELATIONSHIP IS AS BENEFICIAL TO THE LIBYANS AS IT IS TO THE US COMPANIES.

CARLE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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